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UNCLAS KINGSTON 001602

SIPDIS

STATE FOR IIP/G/WHA CBARONE; INFO WHA/PDA APRUITT; RBANKS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KPAO](#) [JM](#)

SUBJECT: Request for Speakers on Information Technology

1. SUMMARY: Post seeks two speakers to participate in a three-day program to include discussions and training for business and media professionals on using information technology to enhance their work.
END SUMMARY

2. Proposed Program Dates: A four-day program in Jamaica in early October 2005 (FY-2005).

3. MPP Strategic Goal: "Economic Prosperity and Security"

4. Purpose of the Program: Post seeks two speakers to discuss the importance and application of new technologies in various sectors in Jamaica, with the aim of assisting professionals in a variety of sectors to improve their efficiency and productivity. Although as a developing country Jamaica has access to a variety of high tech options, and the infrastructural support has improved, many Jamaicans working in a variety of fields are not aware of the diversity and versatility of IT applications. The Minister of Commerce, Science and Technology has made efforts to encourage Jamaicans to make use of online services now available, such as tax payments, as part of his e-government program. With USAID funding, the Minister is also bringing greater technological capabilities to farmers, and will establish a new company, e-Learning Limited, to enhance the use of IT in the classroom.

While the GOJ pursues such initiatives to empower the Jamaican citizen in the field of IT, the private sector is in some ways lagging behind. Journalists do not maximize their use of the Internet for research. Journalists in training need to be up to date with the latest technology. The business sector, especially smaller businesses, do not always have the necessary human and other resources to provide training opportunities that are tailored to the needs of their businesses. Some training entities, such as the National Development Foundation of Jamaica, and other private training companies, try to fill in the gap. The aim of the program is to support such efforts.

5. Audience: Practicing journalists (print and broadcast media); students and lecturers in journalism and communications; business practitioners, including small businesses; IT professionals.

6. Proposed topics and nature of events: Workshop (consisting of two morning sessions) for practicing journalists on Internet research; seminar with graduate students and lecturers at the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communications (CARIMAC) at the University of the West Indies; one-day workshop for business professionals hosted by the National Development Foundation of Jamaica; breakfast meeting with American or Jamaica Chamber of Commerce; seminar with Small Businesses Association of Jamaica; luncheon/meeting with IT professionals.

7. Type of specialist required: An academic from a learning center such as the Information Infrastructure Institute at the University of Iowa, and a private sector specialist or trainer from an organization such as the Cutter Consortium if possible, one with a media focus and one with a business focus. The two speakers should be able to work together on all aspects of the program, whether it is with journalists or business professionals.

8. Language: English.

9. Funding specifics: I Bucks.

10. Post program officer: Glenn Guimond, PAO; tel: (876) 935-6053; fax: (876) 929-3637; email: guimondg@state.gov. Back-up program officer: Emma Lewis, PAA, tel: (876) 935-6009; fax: (876) 929-3637; email: lewisec@state.gov. Cobb